

A TRIBUTE TO ROOT, INC. FOUNDER KENNETH E. BARNES, SR. IN PRAISE OF HIS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AWARD FOR HIS DEDICATED ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS OF CRIME

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize an outstanding American who has worked tirelessly to stem the tide of youth violence that has gripped many communities in our country. Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., M.S., attended Loyola College in Maryland and, while working towards his doctoral degree, tragedy of the worst kind struck—his son, Kenneth Barnes, Jr., was murdered. Rather than do nothing, Mr. Barnes established the organization Reaching Out to Others Together Inc., or ROOT, Inc.

ROOT, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to advocacy, education and intervention on behalf of victims of gun violence and their families. ROOT, Inc.'s mission is to motivate and mobilize communities to take a proactive approach in reducing homicides as well as the senseless gun violence and youth violence that plague cities throughout America. Mr. Barnes has conducted workshops and seminars, locally and nationally, as well as testified on numerous occasions before the D.C. City Council. Mr. Barnes has also worked with my office and played an instrumental role in helping me to draft the Communities in Action Neighborhood Defense and Opportunity Bill, or CAN DO bill, which also addresses the issue of gun violence through a community-based comprehensive approach to the problem.

Madam Speaker, each April since 1981, the Office for Victims of Crime within the U.S. Department of Justice has helped lead communities throughout the nation in their observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities are held each year to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

This year, Kenny Barnes has been nominated by the United States Department of Justice Office of Victim Services to receive the National Service Award for his work on behalf of victims of crime and he will receive this prestigious award on April 24, 2009. This is a great honor being bestowed upon a great man and I would like to congratulate Mr. Barnes for his commitment and dedication to an issue that is so dear to my heart and the hearts of millions of others throughout our nation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR BROOKLYN COLLEGE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL BOBCATS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Brooklyn College Academy High School Bobcats basketball team on win-

ning the 2009 PSAL Brooklyn West B Division title. On March 27, 2009, co-coaches Alicia Braswell and Paul Wallace inspired their team, which was ranked 26th out of 38 through the bottom half of the bracket to the finals and the win. What makes this win not only inspiring but historic is that it is the first time a female coach has ever led a team to the men's division title in the history of the tournament. Players Keyon Aigle, Christoph Bristol, Denzel Duchenne, Craig Gooden, Lesner Guerrier, Jamaal James, Raheem Mack, Jaren Mansano, Kristian Moreno, Alexandre Pages, Jose Perez, Tarik Phillip, Onyma Utti, and Equipment Manager Cassandra Mark played the Brooklyn way and deserved the admiration of all of us here. Principal Nick Mazzarella also deserves our respect and admiration for selecting a female coach to help guide his school to the title. This progressive and forward-thinking approach to athletic hiring has paid dividends not only for the Bobcats, but is also another step forward in the fight for gender equality in athletics. I am proud and deeply honored to represent Brooklyn College Academy High School and provide it as an example to all of what's possible when playing fields are leveled and all are given an opportunity to excel regardless of gender.

RECOGNIZING THE METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Center (MECC). This new center represents the commitment the participants of six fire departments in Central Ohio have had to serving their communities. This innovative center serves Mifflin, Plain, Jefferson, Truro, and Violet Townships as well as the City of White Hall.

The state-of-the-art communications center opened on April 16, 2009 in Gahanna, Ohio. This multi-jurisdictional emergency dispatch center for Fire, Rescue and EMS serves six fire departments and assists over 120,000 Central Ohioans. In 2008, the MECC handled over 27,000 calls for fire and EMS service. The opening of this new facility for the MECC offers room for training, meetings, additional consoles, upgraded technology, and on-site IT support.

This partnership improves efficiency, enhances capabilities, and shares technology to better serve our community. Emergency responders have access to the resources they need to best do their jobs because of the innovative approach to dispatching the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Center has taken. The MECC allows all six participating fire departments to stay on the cutting edge of technological developments to better execute emergency runs and to serve our Central Ohio community.

I offer my congratulations to the six communities that comprise the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Center and I applaud their hard work and dedication to preserving the safety of Central Ohioans.

SPEAK OUT AGAINST GENOCIDE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, April is Genocide Prevention Month. Tuesday, April 21st, marked Holocaust Remembrance Day. Tomorrow, April 24th, is the 94th anniversary of the onset of the Armenian genocide. These times of commemoration are sobering, but I firmly believe that it is important to pause and recall the unnecessary deaths of millions of people which occurred in the last century. By reminding ourselves of past atrocities, we are encouraged to uphold the value of human life today.

During World War I, the Turkish government began an assault on the Armenian people by arresting and killing religious, political, and intellectual leaders in Istanbul. Then, groups of Armenian men, women, and children were rounded up and forced to march through the desert. Along the way, the victims were tortured, raped, and starved.

Before and during World War II, Adolph Hitler attempted to eliminate the Jewish people and others whom he considered a threat. He initiated boycotts of Jewish businesses, prohibited social contact with Jews, and excluded Jews from participation in government, the arts, and education. Then, Hitler began deporting Jews to internment camps, essentially forcing them to complete slave labor. Some were marched to remote areas and murdered. Eventually, the Germans began a campaign of mass extermination by gassing Jews and other "undesirable" ethnic, religious, and political groups.

Monday, April 20th, marked another historic event. It happened to be the anniversary of Adolph Hitler's birth. When justifying his persecution of the Polish people, Hitler declared "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" I, for one, am still speaking about the annihilation of Armenians. I am also speaking about the annihilation of Jews. I encourage my colleagues to join me in speaking out against genocide.

COMMEMORATING THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, April 24, marks the 94th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. I rise today to commemorate this terrible chapter in human history, and to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

On April 24, 1915, the Turkish government began to arrest Armenian community and political leaders. Many were executed without ever being charged with crimes. Then the government deported the overwhelming majority of Armenians from Ottoman Armenia, ordering that they resettle in what is now Syria. Most deportees never reached that destination.

From 1915 to 1918, more than a million Armenians died of starvation or disease on long